

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04614 211450Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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P R 211325Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2438
DEPT OF TREASURY PRIORITY
DOE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

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DOE FOR SEC SCHLESINGER, DEPT OF TREASURY FOR SEC BLUMENTHAL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USSAEC, ENRG
SUBJ: SOLERAS - SERI VISIT

REF: (A) ISW 816, (B) USREP 838

1. DURING MY CALLS ON YOU IN MAY, I RAISED MY CONCERN ABOUT THE LEVEL OF U.S. PREPARATION FOR THE THEN UPCOMING U.S. DELEGATION VISIT HERE COM-
PRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM YOUR DEPARTMENTS AND SERI TO DISCUSS THE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL PLANS AND NEAR TERM PROJECTS WITH SANCST UNDER THE U.S.-SAUDI ARABIA SOLAR ENERGY AGREEMENT.

2. I MET WITH DOE AND TREASURY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DELEGATION WHILE THE DISCUSSIONS WERE IN PROGRESS AND RAISED WITH THEM MY SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE
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DELEGATION'S ABILITY TO SATISFY THE SAG EXPECTATIONS FROM THIS VISIT.

3. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE DATED JUNE 12 TERMED THE VISIT "VERY SUCCESSFUL" AND I FULLY CONCUR IN THIS ASSESSMENT. IN ADDITION TO LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR MANAGING THE OVERALL SOLAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND

IDENTIFYING TECHNICAL PROJECT AREAS, INCLUDING SETTING AN OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING A SOLAR VILLAGE IN SAUDI ARABIA, THE DELEGATION OPENED THE DOOR TO THE SAG FOR INITIATING NEAR TERM PROJECTS IF SANCST AND THE SAG SHOULD SO DESIRE.

4. A NUMBER OF MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY MYSELF AND BY MY DCM IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE USG MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSED AND ANSWERED AS A RESULT OF THE SOLAR DELEGATION'S VISIT AND IN FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND INQUIREIES BY THE EMBASSY.

5. I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE DELEGATION FULLY DISCHARGED USG RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PROJECT AGREEMENT AS BEST AS ONE COULD WISH AT THIS STAGE. AS WELL, THE TIMETABLE AND OBLIGATIONS SQUARELY PLACES THE RESPONSIBILITY ON SAG AND SANCST FOR THE PACE OF THE NEXT STEPS FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLAR AGREEMENT.

6. I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO YOU MY APPRECIATION FOR MAKING THE NECESSARY RESOURCES OF YOUR RESPECTED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVE DEPARTMENTS AVAILABLE WITH THE DELEGATION'S VISIT WHICH FULLY SERVED U.S. INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER.

7. FYI: THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING WITHIN THE SAG CONCERNING SANCST AND THUS THE SOLERAS PROJECT AGREEMENT. FOR THEMOMENT, DR. OBAID HAS NEITHER THE MONEY OR TECHNICAL STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY, DESPITE THE TIMETABLE FOR SCHEDULED EVENTS, WITH SOLERAS. THE BALL IS CLEARLY IN THE SAUDI COURT. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED AS TO ANY DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING FORTH PLANS AS PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED AND CALL ON US FOR ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH WE MAY BE ABLE TO RENDER.

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